THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) While steel plants require metallurgical coal of 17 + 0.50% ash content but low ash non-coking coal is not essential for power plants as the power plant boilers can efficiently utilise coal with higher ash content. During 1992-93 against coking coal requirement of integrated steel plants of SAIL and VSP of 16.36 million tonnes and the indigenous supplies were 11.04 million tonnes (provisional) of washed and direct feed coking coal. During this period the despatches to power sector were 149.24 million tonnes against their requirement of 150 million tonnes.

As on 1-1-1993, categorywise coal resources of India (upto a depth of 1200 metres), estimated by Geological survey of India, are given below :—

(In Million Tonnes)

Tppe of Coal	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
Gondwana Coals . . .	64595.57	84766.60	43552.97	192915.14
Tertiary Coals . . .	251.03	146.50	458.46	861.99
Coking				
Prime Coking . . .	4227.81	1072.19	—	5300.00
Medium Coking . . .	9727.17	11257.69	979.22	21964.08
Blendable/Semi-coking . .	535.45	1077.60	483.55	2096.60
Sub-Total (Coking)* . . .	14490.43	13407.48	1462.77	29360.68
Non-Coking	50362.17	715p5.62	42548.66	164416.45
Total	64852.60	84913.10	44011.43	193777.13

*Does not include Tertiary coals of North Eastern Region

COKING COAL REQUIREMENTS STEEL INDUSTRY

2322. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that prior to nationalisation of coal industry, the country was self-sufficient in meeting the coking coal requirement of steel industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after 20 years of nationalisation, and afer making huge investments, Government are not able to meet the requirement of steel industry;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to meet the situaion in the next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) In the year 1971-72 when the coking coal mines were nationalised the hot metal production in the country was 6.60 million tonnes (m.t) and the requirement of coking coal for the same was 9.68 m.t. which was being comfortably met from the indigenous production. In 1992-93 the hot metal production in the country has increased to 15.20 m.t. requiring about 18.5 m.t. of washed coking coal. Since the increase in the indigenous production of washed coking coal of requisite metallurgical variety was not adequate to match the damand, about 6.70 m.t. (provisional) of low ash coking coal was imported in 1992-93 partly to meet the deficit in the demand and availability and partly to improve the quality of the overall blend. The major problems coming in the way

of increase in the coking coal production of requisite metallurgical variety are :—

(i) Depletion of superior variety metallurgical coal reserves in upper seams in Jharia Coalfields resulting in deterioration of quality of raw coal feed to the washeries.

(ii) Geo-mining problems like steep and multiple seams, fires, water logged old workings and builtup surface structure needing protection by sand stowing etc.

(iii) Sub-optimal performance of some of the old coking coal washeries due to ageing as well as deterioration in quality of feed, and

(iv) Power shortages in Bharat Coking Coal Limited areas.

(d) Some of the steps being taken to augment indigenous availability of coking coal, inter alia, include :—

(i) Increase in raw coking coal availability by reorganising existing mines and development of new mines.

(ii) Increasing raw coal feed to washeries by supplying low volatile medium coking coals of suitable quality.

(iii) Early commissioning of two new washeries under construction at Madhuband and Kedla for increasing the existing washing capacity.

(iv) Modification of the existing coking coal washeries by implementation of recommendations of the Altekar Committee to improve the capacity utilisation as well the quality of washed coking coal.

(v) Coking coal mines in Meghalaya and Assam are being identified to make available increased quantities of low ash coking coal.

ASSESSMENT OF COAL RESERVES

2323. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) at what depth the coal reserve as proved reserve, indicated reserve and inferred reserve of coal are located;

(b) whether any assessment has been made of these reserves to ascertain the economic extraction of proved reserve of coal; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Estimated depth-wise and category-wise break-up of coal reserves is as under :—

(Million tonnes)

Depth Range	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
0—300 .	52333	53850	22360	128543
300—600	10979	23037	18210	52226
600—1200	1541	8026	3441	13008
0—1200 .	64853	84913	44011	193777